

What is claimed is;

1. An optical filter that is provided at an optical path between a photoelectric conversion device which converts a subject image formed at a light-receiving surface thereof to an electrical signal and an optical system which forms the subject image with a light flux from the subject at said photoelectric conversion device, to filter the light flux, comprising:

a stage formed at, at least, a portion of an external circumference of the optical filter.

2. An optical filter according to claim 1, wherein:

a plurality of filter layers are laminated along a direction of an optical axis of the light flux that passes through; and

said stage is formed by varying a size of a surface of at least one filter layer along a direction perpendicular to the optical axis of the passing light flux from a size of a surface of another filter layer along a direction perpendicular to the optical axis.

3. An optical filter according to claim 1, wherein:

said stage is utilized to hold the optical filter.

4. An optical filter according to claim 2, wherein:

<sup>a</sup>  
said stage is utilized to hold said optical filter.

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5. An optical device comprising:

a photoelectric conversion device that converts a  
5 subject image formed at a light-receiving surface thereof  
to an electric signal;

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an optical system that forms the subject image with a  
light flux from a subject at the light-receiving surface  
of said photoelectric conversion device;

10 an optical filter that is provided on an optical path  
between said photoelectric conversion device and said  
optical system to filter the light flux; and

a holding member that holds said optical filter,  
wherein:

15 said optical filter comprises a stage formed at, at  
least, a portion of an external circumference of the  
optical filter and said stage is utilized to hold said  
optical filter element with said holding member.

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20 6. An optical device according to claim 5, wherein:

said holding member has a spring property and holds  
said optical filter by pressing said optical filter either  
toward said photoelectric conversion device or toward said  
optical system.

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